

Christ Episcopal Church
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-38

HABS
NJ
12. NEBRU

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.
12-NEBRU.
1-

Christ Episcopal Church
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Owner: The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Christ
Episcopal Church

Date of Erection: 1852

Architect: Messrs. Wills and Dudley

Builder: Supervised by John G. Hall

Present Condition: Very good

Number of Stories: One with tower

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone.

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - plaster
with an arch ceiling

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The church, according to the records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, was organized in 1742. In 1744 Mr. Skinner, the minister at Amboy, reported that a new church had been built at New Brunswick. The land upon which the church was built was given by Philip French in 1745; in that same year the New Brunswick people petitioned the Society for the Propagation to send them a missionary. They stated that they had erected "a church of stone fifty-five feet long, forty-five feet wide, and twenty feet high." The first missionary was the Reverend Thomas Wood who came in 1750. The second missionary to

the church was the Reverend Samuel Seabury who later became the first bishop of the church in America.

The records show that the church was repaired in 1773. At the same time mention is made that the steeple was nearly erected. The spire was struck by lightning and wholly destroyed in 1813. The steeple was rebuilt, however, in that same year. In 1852 the church was torn down except the tower, enlarged and rebuilt. As much of the old material as could be was used. This church has been renovated twice - in 1884 and again in 1890.

Bibliography:

Clayton, W. W. History of Union and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1882
(The story of Christ Church is told by Reverend Alfred Stubbs, rector from 1839 to 1883.)

Conover, T. A. Reverend Memorial Sermon to the Reverend Elisha Brooks Joyce, D.D. New Brunswick, The Historical Committee of the Church, 1927 (This contains an appendix which lists the events in the history of the parish)

Robert L. Smith

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

The 10/21/27